

In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended.) A method of forming a blocking gel ~~within a wellbore~~ within a subterranean formation, the method comprising the steps of:
forming a base fluid by blending an aqueous fluid and carboxymethyl guar;
adding a crosslinking agent to the base fluid to form a crosslinkable gel; and
pumping the crosslinkable gel into the subterranean formation at a rate sufficient to form a blocking gel, wherein the blocking gel acts as a barrier and thereby temporarily isolates the producing zone within the formation.
2. (Original.) The method of Claim 1, wherein a gel breaker is further introduced to the crosslinkable gel.
3. (Original.) The method of Claim 2, wherein the gel breaker is an enzyme.
4. (Original.) The method of Claim 2, wherein the blocking gel is contacted with the gel breaker subsequent to pumping of the crosslinkable gel into the subterranean formation.
5. (Original.) The method of Claim 1, wherein the crosslinking agent contains zirconium.
6. (Original.) The method of Claim 1, wherein the pH of the base fluid is between from about 4.0 to about 11.0.
7. (Original.) The method of Claim 1, wherein the base fluid contains between from about 40 to about 120 pounds per 1,000 gallons of carboxymethyl guar.
8. (Original.) The method of Claim 5, wherein the crosslinking agent is selected from the group consisting of zirconium lactate, zirconium glycolate and zirconium lactate triethanolamine.

9. (Currently amended.) A method of forming a blocking gel within a wellbore within a subterranean formation, the method comprising the steps of:

forming an aqueous base fluid comprising between from about 40 to about 120 pounds per 1,000 gallons of carboxymethyl guar;

adding to said aqueous base fluid a heat delayed crosslinking agent to form a gelled crosslinkable fluid; fluid, the pH of the gelled crosslinkable fluid being between from about 4.0 to about 11.0; and

pumping the gelled crosslinkable fluid into a subterranean formation adjacent the wellbore

wherein the gelled crosslinkable fluid forms a barrier within the formation when the temperature in the wellbore is greater than 125°F.

10. (Original.) The method of Claim 9, wherein a gel breaker is further introduced to the gelled crosslinkable fluid.

11. (Original.) The method of Claim 10, wherein the gel breaker is an enzyme.

12. (Original.) The method of Claim 11, wherein the gelled crosslinkable fluid is contacted with the enzyme breaker subsequent to placement of the gelled crosslinkable fluid into the subterranean formation.

13. (Original.) The method of Claim 9, wherein the crosslinking agent contains zirconium.

14. (Original.) The method of Claim 9, wherein the pH of the aqueous base fluid is between from about 4.0 to about 11.0.

15. (Currently amended.) A method of forming a blocking gel within a wellbore within a subterranean formation, the method comprising the steps of:

forming a crosslinkable gel comprising carboxymethyl guar and a crosslinking agent; and

pumping the crosslinkable gel into a subterranean formation adjacent the wellbore and forming the blocking gel within the formation.

16. (Original.) The method of Claim 15, wherein the crosslinking agent contains zirconium.

17. (Original.) The method of Claim 15, wherein the crosslinkable gel further comprises a gel breaker.

18. (Currently amended.) A method of controlling fluid loss ~~from an oil well~~ within a wellbore within a subterranean formation during drilling, completion and/or workover operations which comprises:

forming a gelled, aqueous base crosslinkable fluid comprising carboxymethyl guar and a crosslinking agent;

pumping the crosslinkable fluid into a subterranean formation after a drilling, completion or workover procedure; and

forming a blocking gel ~~within a wellbore~~ within the subterranean formation.

19. (Original.) The method of Claim 18, wherein the crosslinking agent contains zirconium.

20. (Original.) The method of Claim 18, wherein the crosslinking agent is selected from the group consisting of zirconium lactate, zirconium glycolate and zirconium lactate triethanolamine.